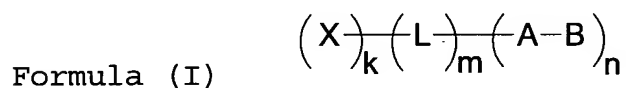


AMENDED SET OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A photothermographic material comprising a non-photosensitive silver salt of an organic acid, a photosensitive silver halide, a reducing agent for silver ions and a binder on one surface of a support, which comprises at least one compound represented by the following formula (I) and at least one second compound represented by the following formula (1), (2) or (3), said second compound having a formula satisfying (iv) that has characteristics satisfying at least one of characteristics (i) to (iii):



wherein, in the above formula, X represents a silver halide adsorption group or light absorption group which contains at least one atom of N, S, P, Se or Te, L represents a (k + n)-valent bridging group containing at least one atom of C, N, S or O, A represents an electron-donating group, B represents a leaving group or a hydrogen atom, A-B is dissociated or deprotonated after oxidation to generate a radical A', k represents 0-3, m represents 0 or 1, and n represents 1 or 2, provided that when k = 0 and n = 1, m = 0;

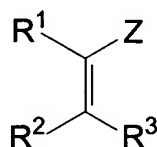
(i) compounds producing imagewise a chemical species that can form development initiation points on and in the vicinity of the non-photosensitive silver salt of an organic acid,

(ii) compounds that provide increase of developed silver grain density to a level of 200-5000% when added in an amount of 0.01 mol/mol of silver, and

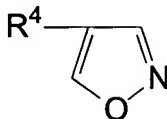
(iii) compounds that provide increase of covering power to a level of 120-1000% when added in an amount of 0.01 mol/mol of silver, and

~~(iv) compounds represented by any one of the following formula (1) to (3):~~

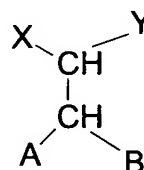
Formula (1)



Formula (2)



Formula (3)



wherein:

in the formula (1), R^1 , R^2 and R^3 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent, Z represents an electron withdrawing group, and R^1 and Z, R^2 and R^3 , R^1 and R^2 , or R^3 and Z may be combined with each other to form a ring structure,

in the formula (2), R^4 represents a substituent, and

in the formula (3), X and Y each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent, A and B each independently represents an alkoxy group, an alkylthio group, an alkylamino group,

an aryloxy group, an arylthio group, an anilino group, a heterocyclyloxy group, a heterocyclylthio group or a heterocyclylamino group, and X and Y or A and B may be combined with each other to form a ring structure.

2. (Currently Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises at least one second compound of satisfying characteristic (i).

3. (Currently Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises at least one second compound of satisfying characteristic (ii).

4. (Currently Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 3, wherein said second compound of satisfying characteristic (ii) provides increase of developed silver grain density to a level of 500-3000% when it is added in an amount of 0.01 mol/mol of silver.

5. (Currently Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises at least one second compound of satisfying characteristic (iii).

6. (Currently Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 5, wherein said second compound of satisfying characteristic (iii) provides increase of covering power to a level of 150-500% when it is added in an amount of 0.01 mol/mol of silver.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Original) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises the compound represented by the formula (I) in an image-forming layer containing the photosensitive silver halide.

9. (Original) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises the compound represented by the formula (I) in an amount of 1×10^{-9} to 5×10^{-2} mol per mole of silver halide.

10. (Original) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises the compound represented by the formula (I) in an amount of 1×10^{-8} to 2×10^{-3} mol per mole of silver halide.

11. (Currently Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises said at least one second compound ~~the compounds of (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)~~ in an image

forming layer comprising said photosensitive silver halide or a layer adjacent thereto.

12. (Currently Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises said at least one second compound ~~the compounds of (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)~~ in an amount of 1×10^{-6} to 1 mol per mole of silver halide.

13. (Currently Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises said at least one second compound ~~the compounds of (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)~~ in an amount of 1×10^{-5} to 5×10^{-1} mol per mole of silver halide.

14. (Currently Amended) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises said at least one second compound ~~the compounds of (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)~~ in an amount of 2×10^{-5} to 2×10^{-1} mol per mole of silver halide.

15. (New) A photographic material according to claim 1, which comprises at least one second compound satisfying at least characteristics (ii) and (iii).